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VISIONIAS
INSPIRING INNOVATION

QUICK REVISION MODULE (UPSC PRELIMS 2022) ENVIRONMENT

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Sustainable development is development that meets the need of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs

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THE MAIN PRINCIPLES OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT ARE:

PILLARS OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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HISTORY OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD)

Forest Principles

The Convention on Biodiversity

Agenda 21

Rio Declaration on Environment and Development

The Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

1992- Rio Summit: United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), also called Earth Summit resulted in:

1987: Brundtland Report entitled "Our Common Future" defined Sustainable development

1972: **UNEP** was set up.

1972-Stockholm Conference/ UN Conference on the Human Environment: The concept of sustainable development received recognition.

1789-**MALTHUS: Human population grows in a geometric progression,** while **subsistence could grow in only an arithmetic progression.**

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HISTORY OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Rio Declaration proclaimed 27 principles of sustainable development.

Agenda 21 outlines actions to be taken to achieve sustainability.

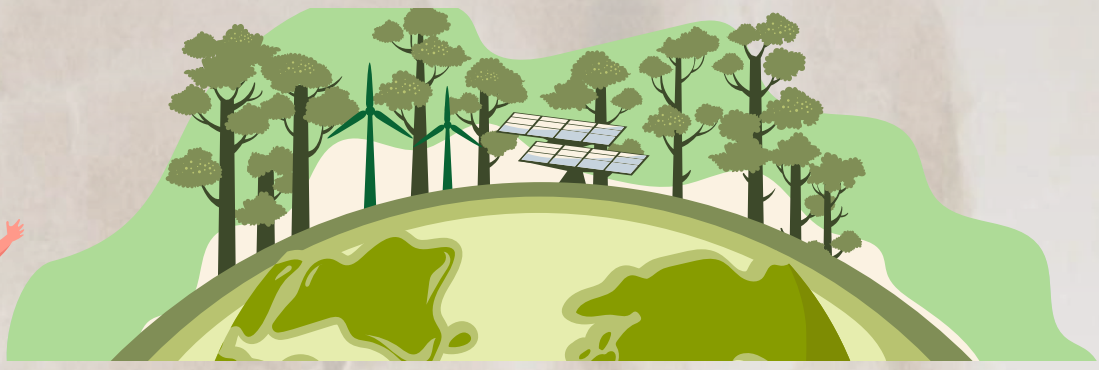
Forest Principles provide recommendations for conservation and sustainable development forestry.

CSD: It is responsible for monitoring implementation of UNCED decisions.

1997- Kyoto Protocol

2000- Millennium Summit: Millenium Development Goals from 2001 to 2015

2002- Johannesburg Declaration: World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) held in Johannesburg for a 10-year assessment of the Rio outcomes (Rio +10).



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THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

2012-UN Conference on Sustainable Development/ Rio+20: Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were launched.

These are based on Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation.

These are 17 goals with 169 targets.

Deadline for achieving SDGs: 2030

For the SDGs, the baseline is from 2015 estimates (It was 1990 for MDGs).

SDGs came into effect in January 2016

Agenda 2030 has five overarching themes, known as the five Ps: people, planet, prosperity, peace and partnerships, which span across the 17 SDGs.

SDG Financing Lab: An OECD-led initiative that strives to inform decision-makers and policy leaders on how to ensure the resources needed to achieve the 2030 Agenda.

SDG Fund: Created in 2014 by UN to support sustainable development activities.

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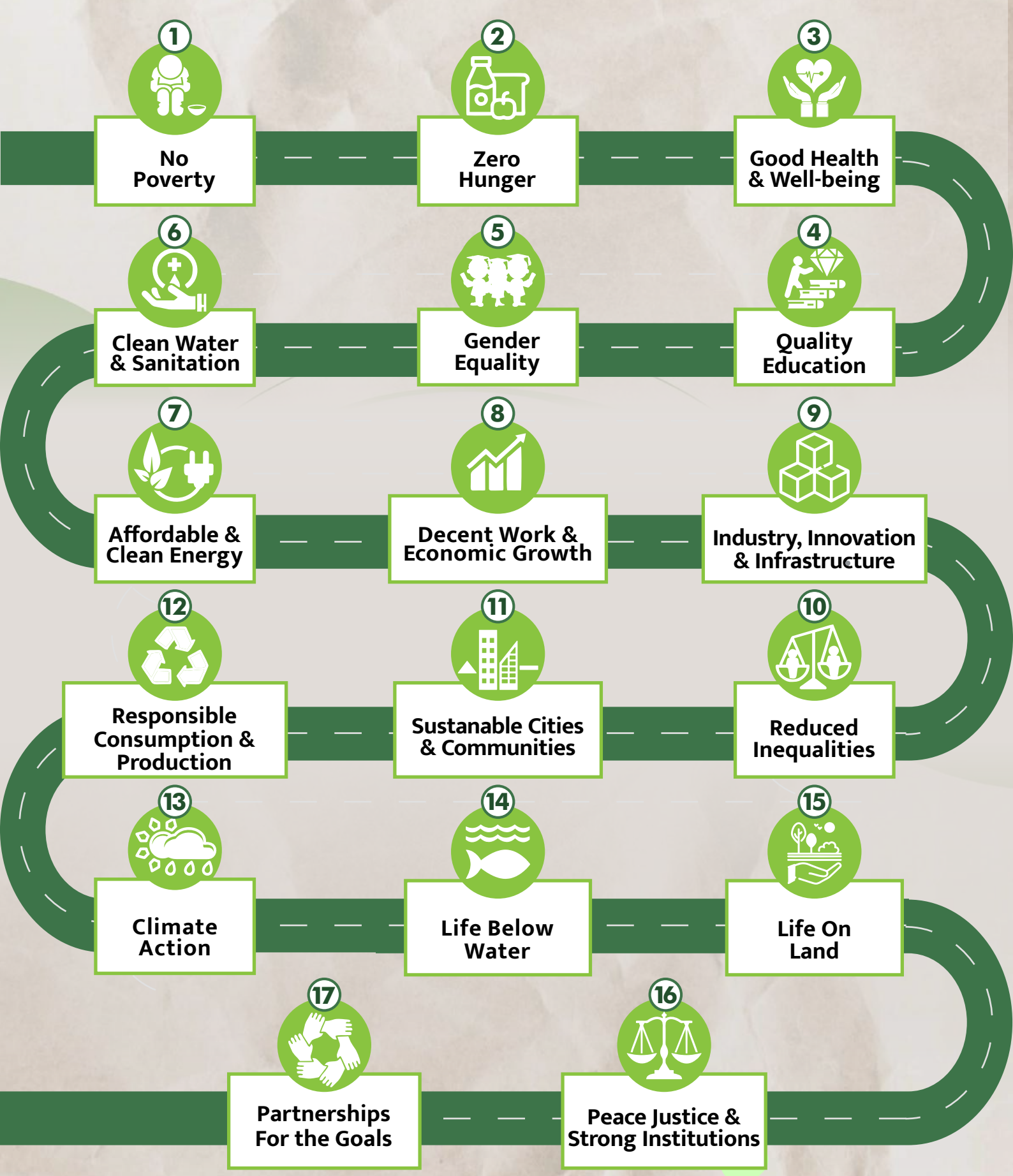
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



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INDIA & SDGs

Coordination by: NITI Aayog

SDG India Index:
By NITI Aayog- To measure the progress of India and its States towards the SDGs for 2030

23 States have prepared Vision documents and action plans to guide their efforts on the SDGs.

NITI Aayog is collaborating with IMF:
On estimating the financial cost of achieving key SDGs.

GREEN ECONOMY =

LOW CARBON GROWTH + RESOURCE EFFICIENT + SOCIALLY INCLUSIVE

GREEN ECONOMY: A green economy is defined as low carbon, resource efficient and socially inclusive.

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Partnership for Action on Green Economy (PAGE) :

Launched in 2013

Aim: To put sustainability at the heart of economic policies and practices to advance the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

PAGE brings together five UN agencies

UN Environment,

International Labour Organization,

UN Development Programme,

UN Industrial Development Organization, and

UN Institute for Training and Research

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MEANING & ORIGIN OF EIA

Meaning: It is the study to predict the effect of a proposed activity/project on the environment.

UNEP defines Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) as a tool used to identify the environmental, social and economic impacts of a project prior to decision-making.

Origin:
EIA introduced by NEPA in 1970 in US

India: Till 1994, it was an administrative decision and lacked legislative support.

1994, EIA notification promulgated under the Environmental (Protection) Act 1986.

EIA PROCESS

PROJECT PROPOSAL:	The submission of a project proposal signifies the commencement of the EIA process.
SCREENING:	Projects without any negative environmental impact are cleared at this stage.
PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT:	If Screening does not clear a project, it moves to this stage. This step can clear projects of the need for a full EIA.

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EIA PROCESS

SCOPING: It is a process of detailing the terms of reference of EIA. The Ministry of Environment & Forests has published guidelines for different sectors, which outlines the significant issues to be addressed in the EIA studies.

Impact Prediction and Assessment of Alternatives.
Once alternatives have been reviewed, a mitigation plan should be drawn up for the selected option and is supplemented with an Environmental Management Plan (EMP) to guide the proponent towards environmental improvements

EIA Report

PUBLIC HEARING: The State Pollution Control Boards will conduct the public hearing before the proposals are sent to MOEF for obtaining environmental clearance. Any one likely to be affected by the proposed project is entitled to have access to the Executive Summary of the EIA.

Decision-Making

Monitoring the Clearance Conditions.
The Project Proponent, IAA and Pollution Control Boards should monitor the implementation of conditions. The proponent is required to file once in six months a report demonstrating the compliance to IAA

IT CATEGORIZED THE PROJECTS INTO 2 CATEGORIES:

Category A Projects	Category B Projects
National Level Appraisal	State Level Appraisal
Appraised by Impact Assessment Agency and Expert Appraisal Committee	Appraised by State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority and State Level Expert Appraisal Committee
Requires Mandatory environmental clearance. Hence these projects do not undergo screening.	These projects undergo screening and are classified into 2 types: 1. Category B1(EIA is mandatory) 2. Category B2(Do not require EIA)

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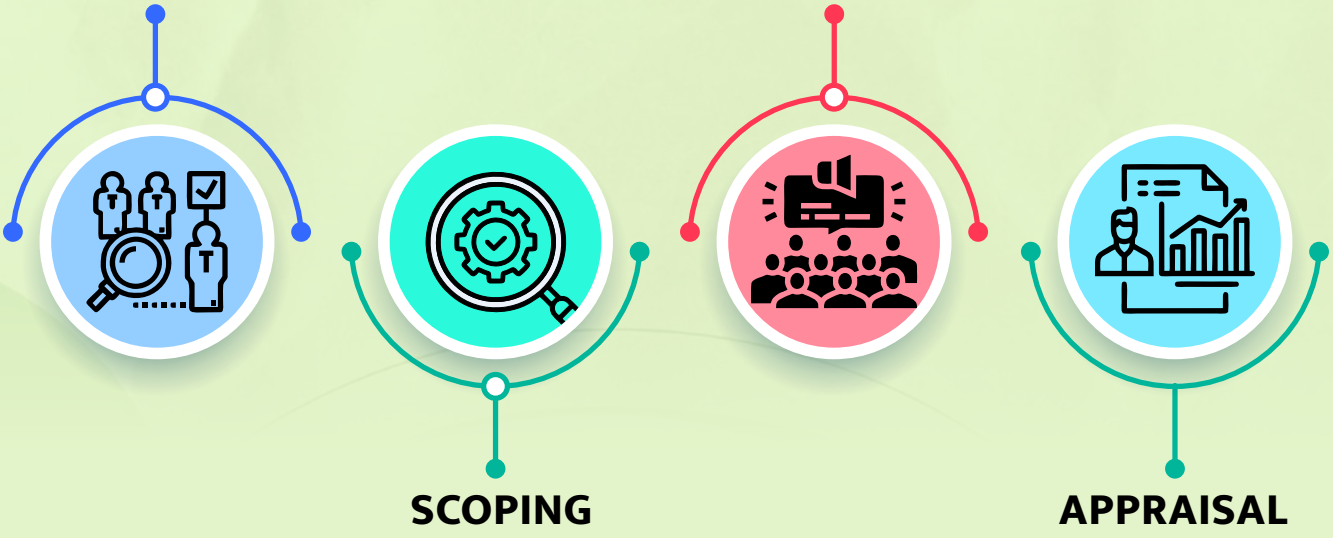
EIA NOTIFICATION, 2006

EIA CYCLE COMPRISES FOUR STAGES:



DRAFT EIA NOTIFICATION, 2020

- Published by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC).
- It will replace the existing EIA Notification, 2006

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Project category	Need of environmental clearance
Category A and B1	Need mandatory environment clearance
Category B2	Do not require mandatory Environment clearance
Exempted projects	**1.** Offshore and onshore Oil, Gas and shale exploration **2.** Hydroelectric projects up to 25 MW **3.** Irrigation projects between 2000 to 10000 hectares of command area. **4.** Small and medium cement plants **5.** Acids other than Phosphoric, Ammonia or Sulphuric acid **6.** MSMEs in dye and dye intermediates, bulk drugs, synthetic rubbers, medium-sized paint units. **7.** All inland waterway projects and expansion and widening of highways between 25 KM and 100 KM with defined parameters. **8.** Aerial ropeways in ecologically sensitive areas. **9.** Specified building construction and area development projects; built-up area up to 1,50,000 sq. m.

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KEY PROVISIONS OF THE 2020 DRAFT

REDUCED TIME FOR PUBLIC HEARINGS:
The notice period for public hearings is reduced from 30 days to 20 days.

EXEMPTION OF PROJECTS:
Projects classified into A, B1 and B2 and a number of projects are exempted from public scrutiny.

ANNUAL SUBMISSION OF REPORTS:
The new draft EIA, proposes the submission of compliance reports annually (Earlier: 6 months)

Report Prepared Solely by Project Proponents

NO PUBLIC REPORTING FOR NON-COMPLIANCE.
Instead, the government will take cognizance of reports only from the violator-promoter, government authority, Appraisal Committee or Regulatory Authority.

POST-FACTO CLEARANCE:
Another major proposal in the draft 2020 is granting 'post-facto clearance' where a project that has been operating without environmental clearance, can be regularised or allowed to apply for clearance.

PENALTY FOR FIRMS:
Firms found violating the terms of their establishment, if they have to get the clearance, however, will have to pay a penalty.